

Madam Speaker, this is one of those occasions where as a Member of Congress, we have an opportunity to return something to one of the organizations that gave us the opportunities that we now enjoy.

I think back to my days at Crawford Public School as a member of the Crawford Junior 4-H Club when I had my first opportunity to participate in leadership experience, my first opportunity to be a president of anything. This is my opportunity to return to 4-H, this body's opportunity to return to 4-H, part of what it has provided all of us with.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam Speaker, I support this bill to authorize funding for the National 4-H Program Centennial Initiative. From its beginnings as the Corn Club for Boys and Tomato Canning Club for Girls, the 4-H program has grown to one of the largest youth organizations in the United States with more than 6.8 million participants. Today 4-H'ers can be found building model rockets, organizing canned food drives for the needy, showing livestock, delivering a speech before local government officials on issues critical to youth, and much more.

In celebration of the centennial of the 4-H Program in 2002, the National 4-H Council has proposed a public-private partnership, to develop new strategies for youth development for the next century. As our world becomes increasingly global and technology-oriented, the demands and challenges facing youth continue to change. This bill will allow the program to change as well. The bill calls for the federal government to provide a \$5 million federal grant that may be matched by non-federal sources.

Today, as a former 4-H member I ask for your support of the youth of America by passing this bill and allowing this great youth organization to evolve into the next century.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, on behalf of over 94,101 Kansas youth involved in the 4-H program, I rise today in support of the National 4-H Program Centennial Initiative. 2002 marks the 100th anniversary of 4-H and it is only fitting that today we take action to recognize the important contributions that this organization has made in the development of our youth.

In my home state of Kansas, 4-H is the largest youth organization outside of school. Almost 100,000 youth between the ages of 7–19 are involved in 3,065 4-H clubs and groups. 4-H reaches 1 in 7 Kansas youth, helping them develop important life skills such as teamwork, cooperation, time management, and communication.

4-H is a diverse organization, in both its membership and programming. 4-H is traditionally thought of as being targeted to "farm kids." Yet 55% of 4-H'ers in Kansas, a very rural state, reside in suburban and urban areas. Of the 6.8 million youth in 4-H nationwide, 30% represent minority racial, cultural, and ethnic populations. In fact, minority youth are the fastest growing segment of 4-H membership.

While 4-H has expanded to meet the needs and interests of youth with diverse backgrounds in all types of communities, at the same time it continues to honor its historic connection with America's rural communities. In Kansas, 45% of 4-H participants live on

farms or in rural areas. As a member of the Agriculture Committee and the Congressional Rural caucus, I understand and appreciate the leadership and opportunity 4-H has provided to millions of our rural youth over the past century.

The purpose of 4-H is illustrated in the 4 H's—head, heart, hands and health—which make up the symbolic 4-H clover. As the pledge states, 4-H does indeed teach youth to think more clearly, to value loyalty, to engage in service, and to follow a healthy lifestyle so that they may become better citizens who will enrich the lives of others and improve our society.

The occasion of a centennial is a significant milestone for any organization, and I am proud of the century of service 4-H has given to our nation. I encourage my colleagues to recognize the contributions and value of 4-H youth development by supporting the National 4-H Program Centennial Initiative.

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House bill 1388 to authorize funding for the National 4-H Program Centennial Initiative. For 100 years 4-H programs across the United States have been producing exemplary citizens. I believe that programs such as 4-H that promote healthy lifestyles, good decision making skills, and loyalty to one's self, community, country and world are vital to the development of our nation's youth. The program has successfully reached our youth in over 3,000 counties in all 50 states. Through conferences, exchanges, and camps in North Carolina, 4-H is making a difference in the lives of young people.

Through federally-funded grants, this bill will make it possible to conduct meetings and seminars to determine what youth development programs are needed and/or currently working and allow this important program to succeed another one hundred years.

4-H participants in North Carolina and across the country benefit from the relationships formed and the timeless values taught through the program. The 4-H program teaches young people skills that will last a lifetime, and reaches students in both rural and urban areas, while not misplacing the values the organization was founded upon. Thank you and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to offer my full support of funding for the National 4-H Program Centennial Initiative. 4-H is the youth education branch of the Cooperative Extension Service, which is also a program of the United States Department of Agriculture. The 4-H program is one of the nation's largest youth development organizations operating in over 3,000 counties throughout each of the fifty states. Texas has one of the largest memberships which includes more than 1.1 million children and teenagers. In and around the district I am privileged to represent, the 28th District of Texas, more than 72,000 young people are enrolled in the 4-H program.

In anticipation of its centennial in 2002, the National 4-H Council has proposed the creation of a public-private partnership to develop new strategies for youth development that will reflect the fast-changing realities of life in the 21st Century. Among other things, 4-H hopes to examine the impact of expanding globalization and the role of emerging high technology businesses.

The National 4-H Program Centennial Initiative will promote program discussions on the

national, state, and local levels. These programs, whether meetings, seminars, or listening sessions, will promote new strategies for youth development and education. This legislation will provide grants up to \$5 million to the National 4-H Council to federal share of program costs. Funding for these planning strategies will help address the issues facing millions of youth all across America.

During these sessions, which will begin at the county level, interested young people will be able to raise issues or questions that face them and their future, such as how the 4-H program can best use emerging technologies to meet tomorrow's challenges. The results of these county sessions will form the foundation of a national strategic plan to implement changes and better prepare for the future. The diverse backgrounds and needs of Texas' counties will be reflected in these reports, helping 4-H members all across the nation understand and adapt to our changing world.

Funding for this program will greatly benefit America's future by helping today's youth. We always say that our children are our future. Let's give them the chance to speak out and address the concerns of our changing world.

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 657.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 657, the Senate bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

CALLING ON CHINA TO RELEASE LI SHAOMIN AND ALL OTHER AMERICAN SCHOLARS OF CHINESE ANCESTRY BEING HELD IN DETENTION

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 160) calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to immediately and unconditionally release Li Shaomin and all other American scholars of Chinese ancestry being held in detention, calling on the President of the United States to continue working on behalf of Li Shaomin and the other detained scholars for their release, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows: